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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

**South Carolina Department
of Veterans Affairs**

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STATE DOCUMENTS

FISCAL YEAR 1983 - 84

Submitted by

**Hoyt B. Hill, Jr., Director
S.C. Department of Veterans Affairs
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina**

September 1, 1984

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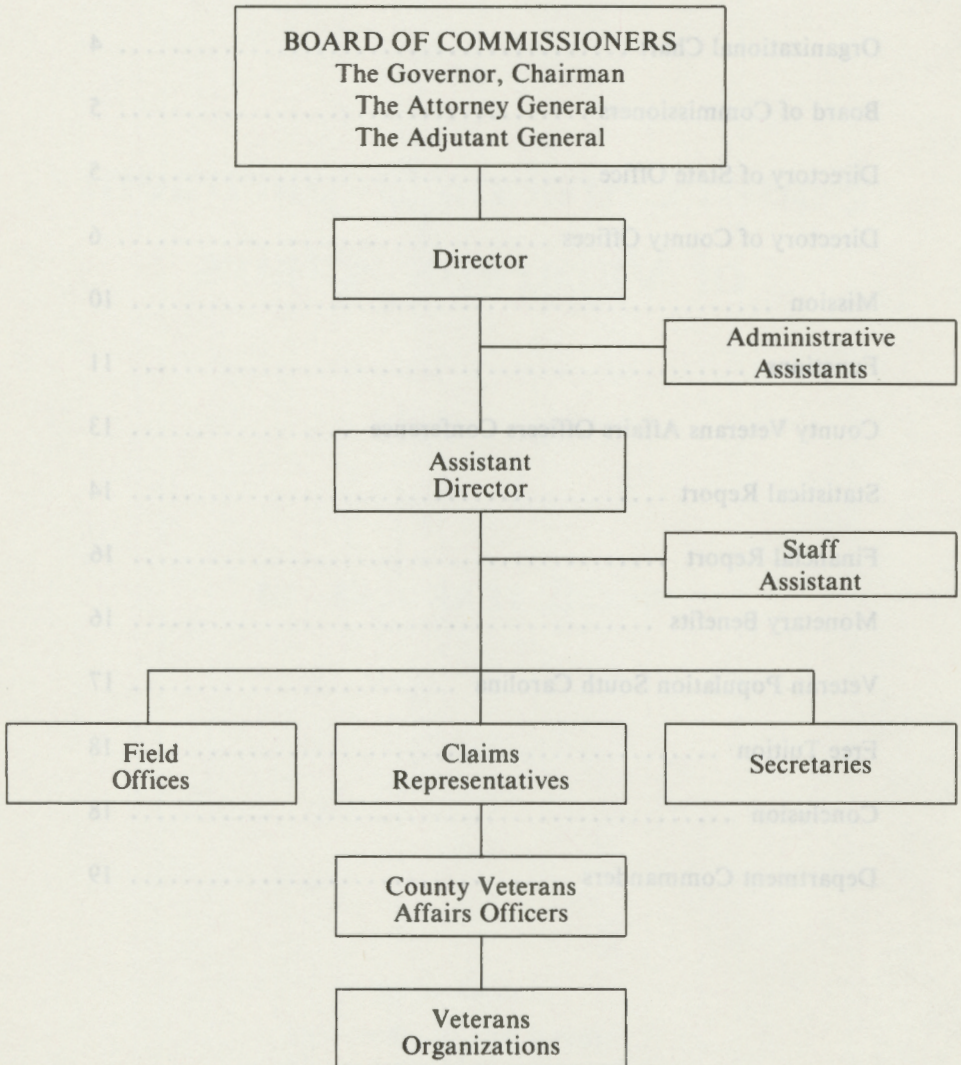
**Hoyt B. Hill, Jr., Director
S.C. Department of Veterans Affairs
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina**

September 1, 1984

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Organizational Chart	4
Board of Commissioners	5
Directory of State Office	5
Directory of County Offices	6
Mission	10
Functions	11
County Veterans Affairs Officers Conference	13
Statistical Report	14
Financial Report	16
Monetary Benefits	16
Veteran Population South Carolina	17
Free Tuition	18
Conclusion	18
Department Commanders	19

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
OF
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CHAIRMAN

Honorable Richard W. Riley
Governor of South Carolina

Honorable T. Travis Medlock
Attorney General
of South Carolina

Honorable T. Eston Marchant
Adjutant General
of South Carolina

DIRECTORY OF STATE OFFICE

Location: 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, S.C. 29201
Telephone No.: 758-2607

DIRECTOR

Hoyt B. Hill, Jr.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Bill J. Sams

ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANTS

Beverly J. Shirley
Linda S. Skipper

FIELD OFFICE SUPERVISORS

Lawrie H. Harmon
Thomas E. Schmidt

STAFF ASSISTANT

Lettie W. Rogers

CLAIMS REPRESENTATIVES

Robert S. Smith
Jimmie Gresham
Cornelius Drake, Jr.
C. L. Byars

SECRETARIES

Eugenia G. Watts
Belva E. Brown
Kathryn Noble
Donna Fusci

DIRECTORY OF COUNTY OFFICES

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Abbeville	Charlie C. Murdock	Room 205 County Courthouse Abbeville, S.C. 29620	459-2608
Aiken	Wayne S. Lethgo	828 Richland St., West Aiken, S.C. 29801	649-3481 Ex. 190
Allendale	George H. Kearse	703 Pine St. Allendale, S.C. 29180	584-4602
Anderson	Allen Thomas	Anderson Co. Office Bldg. 107 S. Main St. Suite 110 Anderson, S.C. 29621	261-4036
Bamberg	B. Monroe Hiers	109 North Street P. O. Box 416 Bamberg, S.C. 29003	245-2492
Barnwell	Douglas Gene Rowell	T. Edward Richardson Bldg. Highway 278, West P. O. Box 871 Barnwell, S.C. 29812	259-7161 Ex. 20
Beaufort	C. B. Epps, Jr.	1713 Prince St. P. O. Box 97 Beaufort, S.C. 29902	524-4444 Ex. 344
Berkeley	Joseph R. West	334 East Main Street P. O. Box 1241 Moncks Corner, S.C. 29461	899-2222
Calhoun	Robert C. Weaver, Jr.	117 Liberty St. St. Matthews, S.C. 29135	874-3816
Charleston	Thomas R. Johnson, Sr.	Room 322 The Center Charleston, S.C. 29403	723-6702
Cherokee	Boyd L. McLean	County Courthouse Gaffney, S.C. 29340	489-5172
Chester	J. B. Cranford	War Memorial Bldg. P. O. Box 957 Chester, S.C. 29706	385-6157
Chesterfield	Edwin M. Davis	101 Park Drive Chesterfield, S.C. 29709	623-2482
Clarendon	Harold DuPree	14 Church St. Manning, S.C. 29102	435-2527

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Colleton	James Hollon Platt	Agriculture Building P. O. Box 627 Walterboro, S.C. 29488	549-1412
Darlington	Clarence H. Jordan, Jr.	County Courthouse Darlington, S.C. 29532	393-1051
Dillon	George M. Pullie	City-County Office Bldg. Dillon, S.C. 29536	744-4133
Dorchester	George W. Thomas	County Courthouse P. O. Box 661 St. George, S.C. 29477	563-2331 Ext. 216
Edgefield	Betty H. Sexton	400 Church St. P. O. Box 5 Edgefield, S.C. 29824	637-3224
Fairfield	Charles A. Medlin	117 East Washington St. P. O. Box 456 Winnsboro, S.C. 29180	635-4131
Florence	Mrs. Etta A. Jaillette	City - County Complex Box T Florence, S.C. 29501	665-3045
Georgetown	Arthur Joseph	County Office Building P. O. Box 306 Georgetown, S.C. 29442	546-7734
Greenville	J. R. Dryman	1200 Pendleton St. Greenville, S.C. 29611	298-8698
Greenwood	Lewis E. Pinson	Room 108 County Courthouse, Rm. 100 Greenwood, S.C. 29646	229-5500
Hampton	Mrs. Leola Bennett	201 Jackson St. Rm. 105 West Hampton, S.C. 29924	943-2258
Horry	A. David Altman	Horry County Courthouse P. O. Box 385 Conway, S.C. 29526	248-6247
Jasper	Leroy Blackshear	County Courthouse P. O. Box 1536 Ridgeland, S.C. 29936	726-8940
Kershaw	Harold R. Truesdale	Room 225 County Courthouse P. O. Box 691 Camden, S.C. 29020	432-4096

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Lancaster	Wade H. Haynes	208 W. Gay St. P. O. Box 730 Lancaster, S.C. 29720	283-2469
Laurens	Charles T. Knight	Courthouse Annex P. O. Box 193 Laurens, S.C. 29360	984-4041
Lee	James F. Sellers, Jr.	105 Courthouse Square P. O. Box 461 Bishopville, S.C. 29010	484-5341 Ext. 254
Lexington	Robert S. Powell	219 E. Main St. Memorial Bldg. Lexington, S.C. 29072	359-4225
McCormick	T. C. Faulkner, Jr.	County Office Building P. O. Box 247 McCormick, S.C. 29835	465-2212
Marion	Joe S. Lane, Sr.	100 West Court Street P. O. Box 519 Marion, S.C. 29571	423-6732
Marlboro	Frank S. Ward	County Courthouse P. O. Box 401 Bennettsville, S.C. 29512	479-2651
Newberry	Allen W. Morrison	1306 Hunt St. P. O. Box 217 Newberry, S.C. 29108	276-3233
Oconee	Harrison E. Orr	Law Enforcement Center South Church St. Walhalla, S.C. 29691	638-2214
Orangeburg	John E. Rivers	County Courthouse Orangeburg, S.C. 29116	533-1000
Pickens	C. Carl Pilgrim	Old County Health Building P. O. Box 451 Pickens, S.C. 29671	878-4778
Richland	David N. Denton	Suite 409 1701 Main Street Columbia, S.C. 29201	748-4662
Saluda	C. C. Riddle	P. O. Box 307 Saluda, S.C. 29138	445-8848
Spartanburg	Ruth L. Wallen	Room 159 County Courthouse Spartanburg, S.C. 29301	585-4811 Ex. 266

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Sumter	Louis Fleming	County Courthouse Rm. 100 Sumter, S.C. 29150	773-1581 Ex. 230
Union	Robert T. Eubanks	County Courthouse Union, S.C. 29379	427-3462
Williamsburg	W. J. Small, Jr.	Office #6 Courthouse Square Kingstree, S.C. 29556	354-6352
York	Roddey Wayne Beard	304 SCN Bank Bldg. P. O. Box 11114 Rock Hill, S.C. 29730	327-2956

MISSION

The Department of Veterans Affairs was originally created in 1927, as the State Service Bureau, by an Act of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina for the purpose of "assisting all ex-servicemen, regardless of the wars in which their service may have been rendered, in filing, presenting and prosecuting to final determination all claims which they have for money compensation, hospitalization, training and insurance benefits under the terms of federal legislation relative thereto."

The original Act was amended in 1945 by providing for a County Service Officer (now County Veterans Affairs Officer) in each of the forty-six counties in the state and restating the purpose, as amended, "to ensure stabilization and coordination of the service work for and in behalf of the war veterans and ex-servicemen and women of South Carolina, in order that they may be guaranteed the maximum benefits granted by laws enacted by the National Congress."

These services are extended to eligible dependents, including parents, widows, children and orphans of war veterans and ex-servicemen and women.

There are approximately 351,000 living veterans in South Carolina as of June 30, 1984, and as our veterans become older, more and more of them become eligible for increased service connected disability payments or non-service pension payments. Also, the death of a veteran usually results in a claim being filed by his survivor, or survivors. Our ranks are additionally being swelled by our newly discharged veterans and retirees of the Regular Service.

It is impossible for our claims personnel to know everything about all of the benefits that may be available to veterans, their dependents, beneficiaries, widows and orphans, but we must be able to know where to find the answers. Periodic meetings sponsored by this Agency are held with our County Veterans Affairs Officers each year to keep them abreast of the changing laws and benefits available. These meetings are instructed by the personnel in this Agency and by technicians and officials from the Veterans Administration in Columbia and Washington.

The necessity for personal assistance to veterans in filing and pursuing claims and a continuing information program results from the legal principle that no veterans' benefits are awarded automatically—All Must Be Applied For. The Veterans Administration is

not a "hand-out" agency as all claims allowed must be justified; hence, skill and knowledge in service work comes into being when we know what evidence is needed to bring about the favorable decision.

We believe that our record in serving South Carolina veterans, their dependents and survivors is equal to any in the United States. The Veterans Administration does have authority to resolve benefit of reasonable doubt, based on all available evidence, in adjudicating cases and we are, therefore, able to have many "close" cases allowed on that basis.

FUNCTIONS

The primary function of this Department, and the majority of our time is spent, in working with and supervising our forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in helping them with individual cases in their respective counties.

Other major functions performed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with the law are as follows:

1. Assist veterans, their families and survivors in initiating, filing and prosecuting claims.
2. Represent veterans before the VA Rating Boards and the Board of Appeals.
3. Publish timely informational bulletins on technical rules and regulations relating to veterans' benefits.
4. Assist and cooperate with all veterans organizations in their work.
5. Conduct Veterans Affairs Officers Schools to instruct in veterans benefits.
6. Maintain complete files on all veterans whom we assist.
7. Assist similar agencies in other states in securing evidence needed in the development of claims.
8. Assist veterans insofar as possible in securing Social Security, Welfare, and related benefits.
9. Assist survivors and morticians in securing burial benefits.
10. Assist all public officials in aiding constituents on veterans affairs.

11. Assist legislators and others in appropriate veterans legislation.
12. Perform a humanitarian service in counseling disabled veterans, veterans' widows, dependent parents and orphans in complete realization of veterans benefits as they best apply in individual cases.
13. Assist veterans in filing applications for review of discharges and in obtaining disability retirement or an increase in disability retirement.
14. Assist in having veterans admitted to the VA Hospitals in Columbia, Charleston, Augusta and other adjacent areas.

A great amount of time is spent by our personnel in reviewing records at the VA Regional Office, and that work must be done carefully and meticulously, since all of the facts must be known in each case that we handle if we are to expect to receive a favorable decision. We have hearings each day before the VA Rating Boards and much time is consumed in personal interviews, in counseling and in letter writing.

Claimants must be advised through their County Veterans Affairs Officers, or directly, of what can be done, if anything, and what evidence is necessary to establish a VA claim for monetary benefits. Such work is highly technical and a thorough knowledge of VA regulations and applicable legislation is absolutely essential.

In addition to representing claimants and supervising the work of forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in connection with VA compensation and pension claims, which is our principle work, we must have knowledge of the many other facets of veterans benefits such as GI training, GI insurance, VA hospitalization, Civil Service Preference, military hospital treatment, PX privileges, the different types of military retirement pay, War Orphans training, outpatient treatment, reimbursement of unauthorized medical expenses, dental treatment, burial in national and VA cemeteries, and a knowledge of South Carolina State legislation as it affects veterans.

The demands for our services come not only from County Veterans Affairs Officers, but by request directly from veterans themselves throughout the state, their dependents and survivors, plus requests from elected public officials in behalf of their constituents.

We also find it necessary to deal constantly with other federal agencies, both locally and in Washington, and at other important government installations over the country. Many contacts by corres-

pondence and telephone with other state agencies are made at frequent intervals. This activity involves a wide variety of subjects, but they are concerned with some problem of vital interest to the person we are trying to serve.

COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS CONFERENCE

In October, 1983, the annual conference on Income-Questionnaires was sponsored by this office for our County Veterans Affairs Officers and their staff.

In addition to our county personnel, representatives from the major Veterans Organizations were present along with officials from the Veterans Administration Hospitals at Columbia, Charleston, and Augusta.

One of the most time consuming, seasonal functions of this Department is assisting pensioners in filing income questionnaires which are required by the Veterans Administration each year. The laws and regulations of reporting income for pension purposes are constantly changing, thus a meeting such as this is an essential part of our work.

Officials of the Veterans Administration Regional Office here in Columbia were in charge of giving instructions for the completion of Income Questionnaires.

ITINERANT SERVICES

This Agency has regular itinerant service to the Veterans Hospitals at Charleston and Augusta in addition to itinerant service to the S.C. State Hospital where there are approximately 500 veterans and State Park Health Center which always has from 10 to 20 veterans in residence.

STATISTICAL REPORT

The following is a report of the number of cases and types of services rendered by the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs and the forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers during FY: 1983-84.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Claims:

Compensation, Pension, Education, Insurance and Reopened	1,669
Correction of Discharge/ Records	5
Correspondence:	
Letters Dictated & Forms prepared	1,300
Hearing Conducted	245
Interviews	3,258

Mail:

Incoming and Outgoing	9,360
Telephone Calls:	
Incoming and Outgoing	22,190
VA Files Reviewed	1,986

Visits to:

CVAO's, Hospital Wards, VA Hospitals, VA Regional Office	943
Consultations	1,426

Files:

Files/ Cards processed (requisitioned, received, filed, new files made	12,237
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Legislative Material:

Calendars, Journals, Bills, Files for Bills	1,833
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Miscellaneous:

Newspaper articles clipped, errands, messages relayed, award letters sent	10,727
Visitors Received	1,249
Conferences/ meetings attended	50

FORTY-SIX COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS

Office Contacts	369,226
Letters and Communications Received	363,064
Official Visits to VA Installations, Department of Veterans Affairs and other points outside County	3,085
Miles traveled on official business	358,581
Compensation Claims prepared, reopened, and appealed	5,663
D.I.C. claims prepared for dependents	1,126
Insurance claims & inquiries & other action on all insurance & Pension Claims	11,347
Applications for hospital treatment	12,361
Requests for payment of burial expenses	7,491
Applications for GI education and training	5,936
Veterans visited in VA Hospitals, Nursing Homes, etc	1,754
Applications for Correction of Military Records and/or Discharge Change	1,591
Miscellaneous assistance given	43,580

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 1983 - 84

Expenditures:

Personal Services	333,551
Operating Expenses	
Contractual Services	10,116
Supplies	5,117
Fixed Charges & Contributions	23,284
Travel	14,192
Equipment	1,939
Total	54,648
Operation of County Offices	507,575
World War I Veterans	2,351
Employer Contributions	61,036
TOTAL Expenditures	959,161

MONETARY BENEFITS

The following is an estimated report of the monetary benefits received by the veterans and the dependents survivors of deceased veterans in the State of South Carolina for the fiscal year July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984.

Compensation & Pension	\$194,930,000
Readjustment & Vocation Rehabilitation	39,571,723
Insurance & Indemnities	12,948,235
Construction and Related Costs	3,338,693
Medical Services & Administrative	
Costs	90,143,560
TOTAL spent by VA in South Carolina for	
fiscal year 1983	\$340,932,211

**ESTIMATED VETERAN POPULATION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
JUNE 30, 1983**

<i>County</i>	<i>Total Veterans</i>
ABBEVILLE	2,280
AIKEN	13,030
ALLENDALE	770
ANDERSON	15,640
BAMBERG	1,320
BARNWELL	1,860
BEAUFORT	7,270
BERKELEY	11,030
CALHOUN	1,240
CHARLESTON	33,750
CHEROKEE	4,490
CHESTER	3,080
CHESTERFIELD	3,750
CLARENDON	2,230
COLLETON	3,020
DARLINGTON	5,840
DILLON	2,410
DORCHESTER	7,090
EDGEFIELD	1,430
FAIRFIELD	2,040
FLORENCE	11,610
GEORGETOWN	4,610
GREENVILLE	35,950
GREENWOOD	6,720
HAMPTON	1,590
HORRY	12,200
JASPER	1,220
KERSHAW	4,370
LANCASTER	5,570
LAURENS	5,680
LEE	1,190
LEXINGTON	18,440
MARION	2,810
MARLBORO	2,450
McCORMICK	670
NEWBERRY	3,140
OCONEE	5,460
ORANGEBURG	7,100
PICKENS	9,090
RICHLAND	34,700

SALUDA	1,710
SPARTANBURG	23,690
SUMTER	8,700
UNION	3,260
WILLIAMSBURG	2,670
YORK	12,820
TOTAL	350,990
VETERANS RECEIVING SERVICE	
CONNECTED COMPENSATION	24,461
VETERANS DRAWING NONSERVICE	
CONNECTED PENSION	12,554
WIDOWS RECEIVING SERVICE	
CONNECTED DEATH BENEFITS	5,566
WIDOWS RECEIVING NONSERVICE	
CONNECTED DEATH BENEFITS	15,245

FREE TUITION

This agency administers the Free Tuition Program for the children of certain veterans under the provisions of Section 59-111-20 of the 1971 Code of Laws, as amended.

During the last fiscal year, a total of 285 applications were approved for Free Tuition for all college, technical schools or technical institutions. The total number for the past 13 years is 5,792.

* * * * *

It has also been a pleasure for this agency to work with the fine cooperation of the Commissioners:

Honorable Richard W. Riley, Governor; Honorable J. Eston Marchant, The Adjutant General; and Honorable T. Travis Medlock, The Attorney General.

**1983 - 84
DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS
OF VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS**

	Telephone Number
Mr. Al J. LeClaire Department Commander The American Legion 1118 Fairlawn Dr. Camden, S.C. 29020	799-3933
Mr. C. B. Mitchell Department Commander Disabled American Veterans Department of South Carolina 31 Pine Dr. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29577	448-5315 (R) 791-4422 (O)
Mr. William J. Jolin Department Commander Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. P. O. Box 1020 Anderson, S.C. 29622	225-7663
Mr. Norman D. Reynolds Department Commander AMVETS Department of South Carolina 1909 English Street N. Charleston, S.C. 29406	744-5882
Mr. E. E. McAlhany Department Commander Veterans of W.W.I of the USA, Inc. 3310 Abingdon Road Columbia, S.C. 29203	252-2892